



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



October 2021

Signing the Armed Forces Covenant

Staffordshire Freemasons were the first in the Country to sign the Armed Forces Covenant, which commits the Freemasons to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. Recognising the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

behalf of the Ministry of Defence, stated how much he and his regiment enjoyed living in Staffordshire with its wonderful infrastructure, such as education and health which is so important to the Armed Forces. Personnel must often relocate both at home and abroad and easy access to such services is very important. He also welcomed the partnership with Freemasonry and looked forward to working together in the future.



The event was supported by many people including members of the Armed Forces and Staffordshire Freemasons and their families.

On Wednesday 20th October held at Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden the Armed Forces Covenant was signed in a ceremony led by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent and Major General Simon Graham, Director Reserves Army, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Ian Dudson, together with John Lockley, Head of Staffordshire Freemasons and Lieutenant Colonel Pete Brunton, Commanding Officer, 16 Signal Regiment based in Stafford led the event at the Freemasons Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas near Lichfield on Thursday 23rd September.

Also, on the same day heads of Freemasonry in the Isle of Man, Cheshire, East Lancashire, West Lancashire and North Wales also made their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. In total 24 Provinces have either signed or will sign the Covenant. The Masonic Charitable Foundation and the RMBI will also sign the covenant in December 2021 at their AGM.

The Lord Lieutenant praised the partnership between the Freemasons and the Armed Forces and their loyalty to the Queen. He further stated the Covenant would be beneficial to both organisations.

In signing the Covenant on behalf of Staffordshire Freemasons John Lockley stressed the value of the Armed Forces to the country and the privilege it will be to support them in the future.

Lieutenant Colonel Pete Brunton signing of



Supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021

This year's poppy appeal will take place between 28th October and 13th November. The Royal British Legion has a long-term relationship with the Freemasons and this year is no exception as they once again ask for our valued support.

This is, of course, part of our Armed Forces Covenant and in supporting it are also supporting our Brethren and Companions who are part of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, as well as the relatives of personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Poppy collections will take place at the local supermarkets listed below and it is hoped that the Brethren and Companions of the Province will assist the RBL at these collection points.

The supermarkets will store the equipment and supplies and will take care of the collection boxes at the end of each day.

It is hoped that, with our support, the RBL can staff the



collection stall for as many days and hours as possible to get the maximum impact and support for the RBL Poppy Appeal.

The suggested "shifts" at each collection point are for two hours, or more if you are available and able to do so.

A short application form is required for safeguarding purposes and anyone who wishes to assist can contact E Comp Ralph Howarth who will supply you with the necessary paperwork and briefing document.

Ralph can be contacted by email via **2gp@pgchstaffs.co.uk**, or by phone on **07734 702231**.

Tesco	Marston Road, Wolverhampton
Tesco	Neptune In Estate, Willenhall
Tesco	Littleton St W, Walsall
Sainsburys	Heath Mill Rd, Wombourne, Wolverhampton
Sainsburys	1 Anders Square, Wolverhampton
Sainsburys	Ring Rd St Marks, Raglan St, Wolverhampton
Sainsburys	Rookery St, Wolverhampton
Sainsburys	Reedswood Way, Walsall
Morrisons	50 Blaydon Rd, Wolverhampton
Morrisons	125 Lichfield St, Walsall
Morrisons	239 Holyhead Rd, Wednesbury
Morrisons	169 Beacon St, Lichfield
Tesco	Victoria St, Hednesford, Cannock
Tesco	Power Station Rd, Rugeley
Tesco	Clough St, Hanley
Tesco	Brookside Rd, Uttoxeter
Morrisons	Newcastle Rd, Leek
Morrisons	Market St, Rugeley
Sainsburys	Churnet Way, Leek
Sainsburys	Etruria Rd, Hanley,
Sainsburys	Minton House, London Rd, Stoke-on-Trent
Sainsburys	Freeth Street, Oldbury

Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Bloodbikes

Brother Ian Bentley of Gordon Lodge No: 2149 is the Area Lead for the North Staffordshire and Charity Trustee and on Wednesday 22nd September he received a CEO award for the work carried out by the bloodbikes which are funded by Freemasonry. He was presented with the award by CEO Tracy Bullock on behalf of the University Hospital North Midlands.

On the left a Yamaha 1300 FJR Mark Mariner with bloodbiker Mark Castle.

On the right BMW F800 Mark Mason with bloodbiker Brian Griffiths.



Izaak Walton Lodge 4281

Epic is the only possible word to describe a magnificent return to Freemasonry for Izaak Walton Lodge on Tuesday 14th September.

Despite a year which was blighted by the pandemic, the Lodge dedicated itself to raise and distribute funds equal to its Lodge number - 4281. That target was roundly beaten and the Lodge eventually distributed over £5,000 to local charities.

Then, exactly 100 years to the day since the Lodge was consecrated, over seventy Provincial Grand Lodge members, Lodge members and guests attended its Centenary celebrations. Thanks to great planning, tons of behind the scenes effort and the combined talents of the Lodge, the event will be remembered for many years to come.

The meeting also proved once again that charity is at the heart of what Freemasons are about. A cheque for a further £1,500 was presented to the Head of Staffordshire Freemasons, John Lockley in support of the 2024 Festival (an event supported by all Staffordshire Lodges which aims to raise £1.5million for charity by 2024) and during a most enjoyable meal, members and guests donated a total of over £1,000 which will be used to support the work of the Lodge Almoner and of charities throughout the Stafford area.



(photographs courtesy of Mike Sharples)

John Lockley, presents the Centenary Certificate to Martin Woodhead, Master of Izaak Walton Lodge



Two 50 year presentations..!

How many Brethren can say that they saw the same Brother get presented with two 50 Year Certificates in a two-month period? Several Staffordshire Brethren can say they did! On Friday, 27 August, Bro. Matt Wainwright, a member of St. Werburga Lodge in Derbyshire, was scheduled to receive his Third Degree. He invited several Brethren of Lodge Alexandra, Glasgow, to attend that



meeting and the Right Worshipful Master, Bro. Andy Honest, accompanied by two Past Masters, Bro. Joe Robinson and Bro. (Capt) Frank Cameron and the Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Linlithgowshire, Bro. Davy O'Neil, accepted the invitation. W. Bro. David Watt was also invited to that meeting. Bro. David's Mother Lodge is Lodge Alexandra. So, the RWM, Bro. Andy Honest, thought he would use the occasion to present W. Bro. Watt with his 50 Year Diploma from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The necessary permissions were sought and a big thank you is due to RW Bro. Steven Varley, PGM of Derbyshire and RW Bro. Andy Mushet, PGM of Glasgow, for granting these requests. The presentation was supposed to be kept secret from Bro. David, but we all know that

Masons cannot keep secrets and the news leaked out. Said David, "This has been a wonderful evening and I am very grateful to all concerned." The occasion was attended by several Staffordshire Masons, including VW Bro. David Thomas, Deputy PGM, W. Bro. John Derry, APGM, W. Bro. Kevin Parkes, PAPGM, W. Bro. Wayne Lutton, ProvGSwdBr, W. Bro. Nick Collumbell, ProvdGDC, W.

Bro. Nick Walters, PPrGSwdBr and a goodly number more. Someone quipped that, "There are more acting Provincial Officers from Staffordshire here tonight that some Staffordshire Installations!" The last word from Bro. David. "The last fifty years has been an amazing Masonic Journey. It is my fervent hope that there are many more miles yet to go!"

But what about the two presentations?

Well, when Bro. David moved to Staffordshire, from Sussex, in 1997, he had already contacted Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge and subsequently, in 1998, became its first joining member, progressing to WM in 2005. It was not unexpected then, when Bro. David asked the Provincial Secretary, if, when it was time for him to receive his 50 Year Certificate, could he have it presented at Staffordshire Provincial Stewards' Lodge. The presentation was arranged for the same evening as the Installation, on Monday 27th September. That presentation was supposed to be a surprise too. However, that presentation couldn't be kept secret any more than the first one! So, after the Installation Ceremony, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. John Lockley, presented Bro. David with his English 50 Year Certificate, in such a sincere and personal

manner, as one could ever witness or even imagine. In response, Bro. David said, "There have been few occasions in my life, where emotion has left me lost for words. This is one of them." I know for a fact, that Brother David was truly moved and touched by the kind things the PGM mentioned in his presentation. Bro. David said, "I am so fortunate to have so much support from so many Brethren of the Province, here tonight." On this occasion, we were honoured by the attendance of Derbyshire Stewards, in a deputation led by RW Bro. Steven Varley, PGM Derbyshire, with W. Bro. Ravi Kumar Sanhan, PAGDC, ProvGDC (Derbyshire), W. Bro. Ranjit Dol. ProvAGDC (Derbyshire) and Bro. Matt Wainwright, of St. Werburga Lodge, Derbyshire, whose invitation to Lodge Alexandra Brethren to come and see his Third, led to the first part of this article.

You might be forgiven for thinking that the day could not have been made any better for Bro. David. Well it could and it was. That morning, Bro. David received a call from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland's Office, advising him that they had received notification, from the MW Grand

Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, of a patent granted in Bro. David's name, appointing him as the Representative of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines near (at) The Grand Lodge of Scotland. Have you ever heard the saying, "I thought all my birthdays had come at once"? Bro. David understands exactly how that feels!

The meeting was followed by a most convivial Festive Board. All Stewards Festive Boards are convivial, but for Bro. David, this one was extra convivial. Now the story might finish there, but it doesn't. RW Bro. Steven Varley has been heard to remark, "I have never been a Provincial Steward, so I can't join my own Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge." Well, RW Bro. John Lockley rectified that situation, when he appointed RW Bro. Steven Varley as a Past Provincial Grand Steward in the Province of Staffordshire! "Now", said our PGM, "You are eligible to join your Derbyshire Stewards Lodge." "But first", said our PGM, here is your Form P for Staffordshire Stewards Lodge!" **And, dear readers, RW Varley's smile was far from forced.**

W.Bro. REVD. Bernard Buttery, PJGD, PPrSGW

The 12th February 2021 was the 50th anniversary of W.Bro. Revd. Bernard Buttery's initiation into Etruscan Lodge. Because of the restrictions on physical meetings due to the Covid pandemic, it

was not possible for the Lodge to gather together to mark the occasion. A Zoom meeting was held instead, which was 'attended' by the Provincial Grand Master, and Lodge members.



However, the members were determined to celebrate the anniversary 'properly' and as soon as was possible, the Lodge held an Emergency meeting to do just that. The meeting took place on Friday 10th September and, in addition to Lodge members, it was attended by RW.Bro John Lockley, RW.Bro Sandy Stewart, VW.Bro John Winter, seven officers of Grand Lodge and other visitors - a fitting tribute to the high esteem in which Bernard is held.

W.Bro. Alan Astle (Bernard's proposer) gave a comprehensive

account of Bernard's adult life, including mentioning the first time they met, when Alan's late sister, Norma, brought Bernard home to be introduced to the family. Bernard subsequently married Norma. Bernard and Alan thus became brothers in law and a very close and long friendship ensued. Alan went on to speak about Bernard's career as a teacher, starting in Wolverhampton and going on to become head teacher at several Schools in Staffordshire. Alan also informed those present of Bernard's deep Christian faith and his long service in the Church of England; his ministry starting as a Lay Reader and subsequently as an Ordained Priest.

The Provincial Grand Master paid tribute to Bernard's long, devoted service and great commitment to Freemasonry in general

and the Province of Staffordshire in particular. The Provincial Grand Secretary then read the 50yr Certificate prior to it being presented by the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master then promoted Bernard to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

The Worshipful Master, Brett Turner-Farmer, then presented Bernard with gifts from the Lodge. These were a number of Bible study books which Bernard's had chosen to complete his set, and a bottle of his favourite single malt whisky.

Bernard expressed his gratitude to all for attending. In addition he thanked the Provincial Grand Master for his kind words, the promotion and the 50 year certificate. He especially thanked Alan Astle for his tribute and for their many years as friends, brothers and brothers in law. He also said how grateful he was for the gifts from the Lodge. He then reminisced about the past 50 years including some memorable Past Masters of the Lodge, those he had introduced into the Lodge and many other things. However, the highlight for him was when, as Provincial Grand Chaplain, he led the service of Dedication of the Masonic Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum. In closing Bernard said there were three 'F's' that were paramount in his life; Faith, Family and Freemasonry - in that order.

A very happy Festive Board followed and all agreed that celebrating the 50th Anniversary of such a well-respected mason was an excellent way to mark our 'return' to freemasonry.



Provincial Golf Society 2021

We have been able to enjoy all but one of the scheduled events this summer, with Covid only spoiling the Six Provinces competition in July.

Our May to September season saw us play for the Spring Trophy and Provincial Grand Wardens Team event at the challenging Aston Wood GC on 27th May. The individual winner was Brian Cockersole, with 33 Stableford points, and the Prov.SGW's team won a closely contested competition by just two points. Ralph Ritchie had joined us for the meal afterwards and proudly receiving the trophy.

In June we played both of our three-way Provincial matches. First against Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire at Horsley Lodge GC near Derby, and then against Warwickshire and Worcestershire at Shirley GC near Solihull. In each case the host Province were the worthy winners.

July saw us due to host the Six Provinces, which we've held over until 2022.

At The Manor GC in August, we played for the Valon Cup (for members of Lodges and Orders that meet at Stafford) and the Denne Shield (for all those that don't attend meetings there). The respective winners were Kevin Spencer and Simon Palmer.

The first week of September saw us travel to The Wrekin GC and play against Shropshire, where home advantage saw them just take the win.

Our season finale is the prestigious PGM's Trophy in September, which this

year was at Walsall GC and won by Mike Hughes with 34 points, on a BB9 countback from Stewart Waring. The winners received their prizes from RW Bro. John Lockley who kindly attended the meal and prize giving after the golf.

Next year's programme will follow a similar pattern of events. The current members of our society would welcome some additional players to boost our ranks, so if you fancy representing our Province then please contact Mark Ashton (msg.ashton@gmail.com, 07889 580000) for more details and come along.

(Back Row, Sandy Stewart, Neil Bott, Peter White. Front Row, Kevin Spencer, Simon Palmer).



2021 Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot

In Aid of Staffordshire Provincial 2024 Charity Festival

To be held at Doveridge Clay Sports Ground (On A50 near Uttoxeter)

Sunday, 21 November, 2021
1000hrs to 1430hrs

50 Sporting Targets

(Ten targets from five stands) (re-entry permitted)

Inscribed Trophy for High Gun Gentleman, Lady and Under 18

The St. Giles Trophy for High Mason Gun (To be retained by winner
until next shoot)

£30 per entry

Café available on site. Cartridges (12g) available at Circa £5.50 per
box of 25 (50 required) £6.75 for 20g

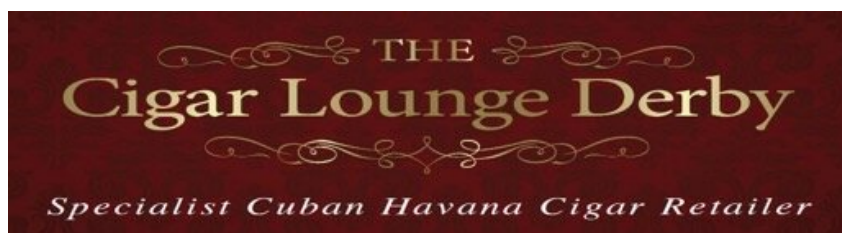
Come along and have some fun. Experienced shooters will be at
every stand, for safety and to assist beginners. Ear defenders and
safety glasses recommended. Bring your Non-Masonic friends.

Every entry helps your Province. Loan Guns available.

It would be most helpful if you will send your entry with fee
to: David Watt

Tel: 07866-571180 E-mail: einhorrido@sky.com

Sponsor



Unit 2 Robinson Industrial Estate, Shaftsbury Street, Derby, DE23 8NL

Tel 01332 331548 or info@cigarlounge Derby.com

Burslem Chapter No: 98

A recently refreshed Burslem Chapter met at the Chase Golf Club on Saturday 25th September and conducted a double Exaltation Ceremony. The Chapter were assisted by E Companion Chris Adams PGStdB, Provincial GDC and E Comp Mike Skillen who delivered the Mystical Lecture.

Burslem Chapter has recently moved towards a Motorcycling themed Chapter, supported by both the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association and by Legge lodge 2784 which is the Staffordshire Motorcycling Lodge. Recently relocated to meet at Chase Golf Club they have several ceremonies planned and look forward to a rosy and revved up future.

The two newly Exalted Companions are pictured - left is Companion Steve Watts and right Companion Jon Sealey following the ceremony.



Royal Arch Masonry Long Service

The Deputy Grand Superintendent E A Ford recently attended the home of E. Comp Bob Dodds to present to him a certificate congratulating him on 50 years in Royal Arch Masonry. Bob was exalted into Sutherland Chapter No: 451 on 26th March 1971 and became MEZ in 1983, he is also a member of Staffordshire First Principles Chapter.

E. Comp Tony Simey celebrates 50 years

On Thursday 21st October St John's Chapter No: 1039 held it's first meeting in 20 months and the Principles were duly Proclaimed. Also, E. Comp Tony Simey was presented with a certificate to congratulate him and on his 50 years in Royal Arch Masonry by Provincial 2nd Principal E. Comp Ralph Howarth accompanied by E. Comp Mark Roberts Provincial Grand Standard Bearer. It was evident in both the Chapter room and at the Festive Board that all the members and visitors alike were glad to be back.



Minerva Chapter celebrate 50 years service for E. Comp Jim Burkin



At the Minerva Chapter

Convocation on Tuesday 28th September there was not only the Installation of the three principles namely E. companions Rob Adams, Rod Mitchell and David Adderley and their officers. But also the celebration of Fifty years in Royal Arch Masonry by E. Comp Jim Burkin and a certificate was presented by the Most Excellent Superintendent Robin Stubbs who attended together with E. Comp Mark Roberts Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.



Stafford Masonic Hall Open Day

Only a minute after the doors of the Stafford Masonic Hall opened on Saturday 18th September, the first visitor signed in. He was an 83-year-old Staffordian who said he walked past the building most days and had never seen the door open before. He signed the visitors book and entered 'nosey' as his reason for visiting.

Other visitors, nearly 40 in total during the four-hour opening, enjoyed their visit and entered 'curious' as their reason for visiting. The final visitor being a young man who is already in contact with a Stafford Lodge secretary about joining and just wanted to see inside the building.

Attendance was low as we emerge from the effects of the Pandemic, which is understandable but disappointing as the last open day three years ago attracted

nearly 200 visitors and the volunteers from the Stafford Lodges were kept busy showing them around and answering lots of questions.

On this occasion, again there were several volunteers, and a brief Question and Answer session was hosted by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Michele Santopietro and Royal Arch Grand Superintendent Robin Stubbs.

Stafford Masonic Club chairman Peter Atkins described the event as a 'disappointing success' and commented "We had enough volunteers to host our visitors, but the numbers were down considerably on the last time we had an Open Day. Our volunteers were kept busy, and I am very grateful to them for helping us. All the visitors I spoke to said how informative and interesting it had been."

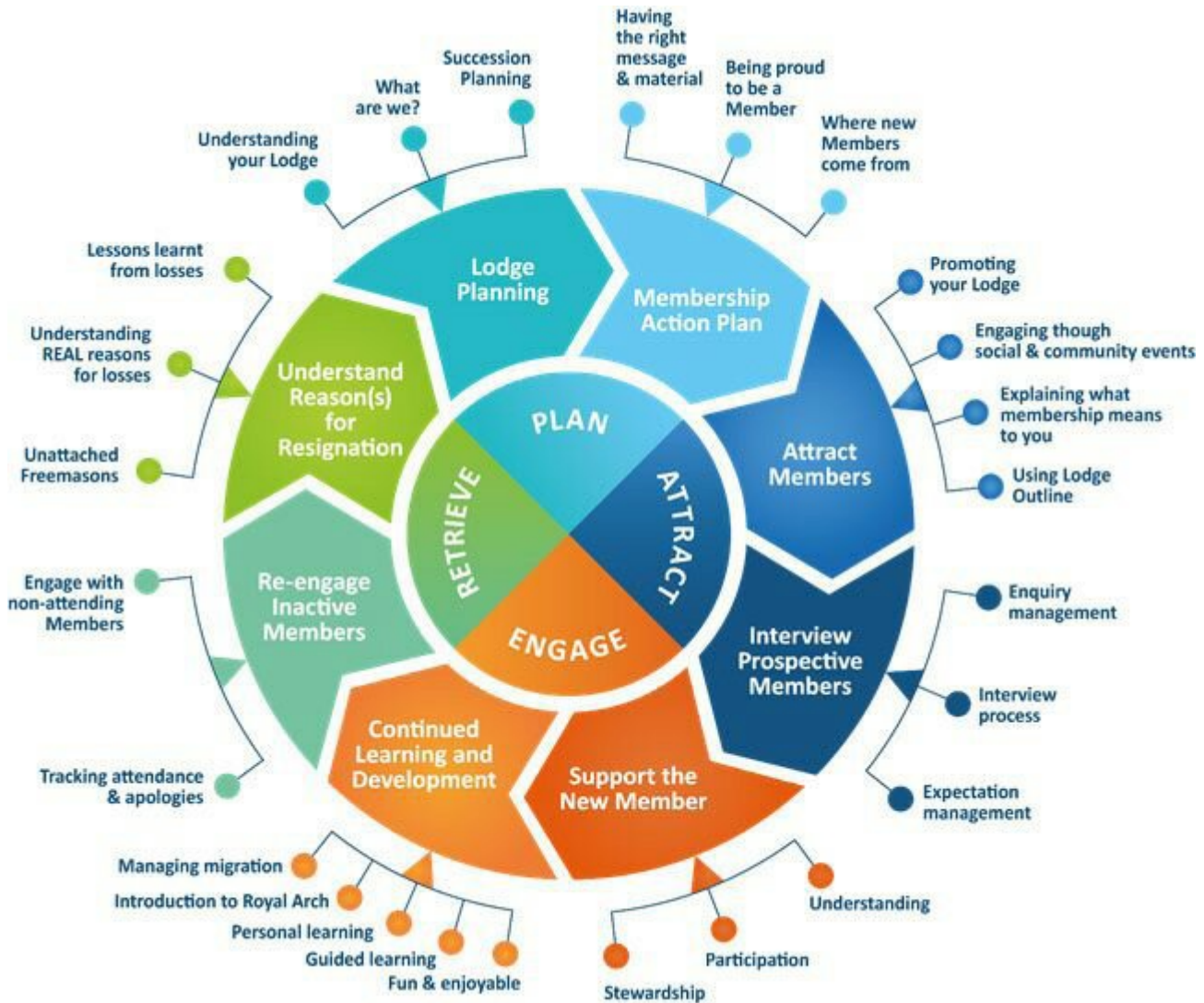


Pictured are, from left to right, Stafford Masonic Club secretary Mike Clews, Richard Fisher, Robin Stubbs, Michele Santopietro, Bob Mallen, Frank Pearson and Peter Atkins.

The Members Pathway

Attracting Members - Growing Lodges

Originally launched in 2017 the Members Pathway has been reviewed and updated delivering a fresh approach to the content, providing resources to assist us all in achieving the aim of stabilising and then increasing our membership. The diagram below has been widely circulated within the latest edition of Freemasonry Today.



The Provincial Membership Strategy Group are available to support, encourage and enthuse Lodges who want to develop their approach to Plan, Attract, Engage and Retrieve new and existing members and to ensure that the Lodge remains viable for the long-term future. As a part of this strategy there will be a new focus on Membership using this mailing software on a regular basis with the intention of promoting tried and tested tools that will increase our membership using a simplified 4 stage approach that will break down the pathway into manageable segments.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE



The Members' Pathway
Attracting Members - Growing Lodges



Staffordshire and Shropshire Knights Templar Annual Barbecue

The Staffordshire and Shropshire Knights Templar Annual Barbecue was held at The Fox's Glen Kibblestone Scout Camp 14th August 2021.



The BBQ is now firmly embedded within the KT calendar and the nearly 100 attendees including the Provincial Prior, Provincial Sub Prior and Provincial Vice Chancellor enjoyed

fine weather, fine wine, and fine food. Now in its third year the BBQ has gone from strength to strength and all the volunteers should be congratulated on a job well done in cooking a great variety of food including sausage, burgers, chops, chicken drumsticks, salmon and the accompanying salad and potatoes, followed by a choice of desserts which

were washed down with numerous alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks. The Raffle and Tombola proved that those attending did not have long pockets as we managed to raise £2700.00 for worthy causes which will be dispersed by the Province in due course. As ever the foodstuffs that were not cooked were handed over to Kibblestone Camp for use by the Scouts when they visit. This was an excellent day out for all of the family with kids under 10 getting in free!!



The Cornerstone Project

During the pandemic the Masonic Charitable Foundation has been making grants to support various charities throughout the country.

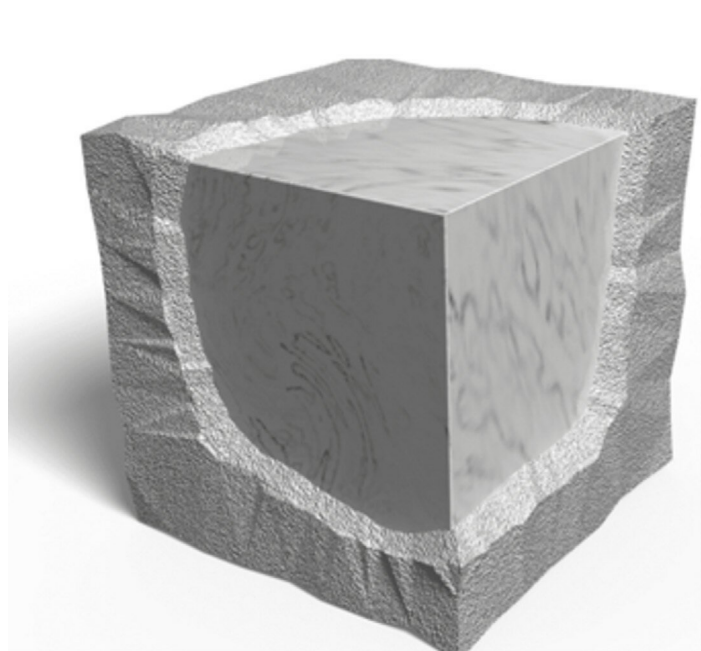
Phase 3 of the grants aimed at young people's mental health has recently been awarded, and a project put together by E Comp Ralph Howarth, together with one of the NHS Commissioner's for Staffordshire, Lorna Scott submitted a successful bid to support mental wellbeing for young people in Staffordshire.

The grant of £23,870 is being used to fund a partnership-based support scheme across three main areas in Staffordshire - Stoke, Stafford, Cannock - where young people have been identified as being most vulnerable with their mental health.

Sadly, many young people wait for many months, or even years, to get the support they so vitally need, and this funding will help them to move forward with their mental wellbeing.



The three courses are sports based, with numerous activities including multi-sports, angling and horse-riding over the course of a week, which the young people would not normally be able to access. The participants have been identified through referrals to the NHS and now, because of this funding, can access support and wellbeing based on exercise and outdoor activities. The sports sessions are being run by Together Active and within the sports sessions are several mental wellbeing sessions provided by MIND. These mental wellbeing sessions, based on "walking and talking" about their



problems and concerns, shared in a safe environment, are bespoke to the individual and aimed at giving the young people the tools to support their future mental wellbeing as well as signposting to other forms of support that may be needed long term.

It is hoped that this project will be the foundation of a longer-term plan to support the mental health of our Province's young people.

Lorna Scott said "I'm very grateful to Staffordshire Freemasons for supporting this project and in turn supporting the mental wellbeing and development of our young people in Staffordshire. Ralph has been involved in mental health and wellbeing training with our organisation and because of this link has kindly worked with me to develop this much needed funding bid. We are looking forward to working with our Masonic community in the future and developing a long-lasting relationship."